# NATIVE PAPERS IN

POR THE

# Week ending the 2nd January 1904

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# LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No-	Names of Newspapers.	Places of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	Remarks.
2 1	Bengali.	CALCUTTA.			
	Monthly.				
	" Dharma-o-Karma"	Calcutta			1
2	"Prachar"	Bhowanipore, Calcutta	•••••	•••••	
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Sign Board"	Calcutta		******	
	Weekly.				1
		Calcutta		*****	
1 2	"Anusandhan" "Bangabhumi"	Ditto	2,600	22nd December 1903.	
. 3	"Bangavasi"	Ditto	12,000 17,000	26th ditto.	
5	" Hitavadi"	Ditto	15,000	25th ditto.	
6	" Mahima"	Ditto	1,000	25th ditto.	
7	" Minir-o-Sudnakar "  " Mistabhasi "	Ditto		29th December 1903.	
9	"Nava Yug"	Ditto	500	26th ditto. 23rd and 30th Dec. 1903.	
10 11	"Pratijna"	Ditto	2,500	28th December 1903.	
12	"Rangalaya"	Ditto	1,500	27th ditto. 26th ditto.	
13 14	"Sahas Kesari"	Ditto	600	25th ditto.	
15	"Sanjivani"	Ditto	3,000	24th ditto.	
16	"Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o- Ananda Bazar Patrika."	Ditto	1,000	23rd ditto.	
	Daily.				
		Calcutta	200		
2	"Dainik Chandrika" "Samvad Prabhakar"	Ditto	1,200		
8	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"		400		
	HINDI.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Bharat Mitra"	Calcutta	3,200		
3	"Hindi Bangavasi"	Ditto	E 000		
3	" Hitavarta "	Ditto	•••••		
	Persian.				
	Was. 7.7.				
	Weekly.				
1.	"Roznama-i-M u k a d d a s Hablul Mateen."	- Calcutta	1,000	•••••	
	Bengali.	BURDWAN DIVISION.			
	Weekly.				
1	"Bangabandhu"				
2 2	"Bankura Darpan"	. Bankura	900		
4	"Chinsura Vartavaha"	. Chinsura	-		1
6	"Education Gazette" "Howrah Hitaishi"	. Ditto	1 000	0 25th December 1903.	
6	"Medini Bandhay"	Midnemone	About 40	26th ditto.	
8	"Nihar"	. Contai	. 15	0 29th ditto.	
10	"Pallivasi" "Prajaranjan"	Kalna Tamluk	60	0 23rd ditto. 21st ditto.	
11	"Prajaranjan" "Ratnakar"	Agangol		26th ditto.	A Land Control of the
	Bengali.	PRESIDENCY DIVISION			
	Monthly,				
		,		1	Short Sold S
1	"Sevika"	Diamond Harbour			
10 8	Fortnightly.				
4.3					
1	"Vaidik"	Khulns		The second second	and the same of the

# LIST OF NEWSPAPERS—concluded.

To.	Names of Newspapers.	Places of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	Benabra.
	Bengali. Wookly.	PRESIDENCY DIVISION —concld.			
- 1	1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -	7			
2	"Jasohar" "Khulna Hitaishi"	Jessore Khulna	*****	•••••	
3	"Murshidabad Hitaishi"	Khagra	400	23rd December 1903.	
4	"Pratikar"	Berhampore	600	26th ditto.	
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.	*		
		ORISSA DIVISION.			
	Weekly.				
1	"Garjatbasini"	Talcher Balasore		19th December 1903.	
2	"Samvad Vahika" "Uriya and Navasamvad"	Titte	500 400	17th ditto.	
4	"Utkaldipika"	Cottook	200	19th December 1903.	
					•
	HINDI.	PATHA DIVISION.			
	Monthly.			9	,
1	"Lakshmi Upadesh Lahri"	. Aurangabad, Gaya	•••••		
	Fortnightly.			1.00	
1	" Dil - D - 31 - "	. Bankipore			*
2	"Jain Gajat"	Amah			
	URDU.				
	Weekly.				
1		Bankipore			
1 2	" T'1 - T 1 11	Gaya		•••••	14
_					
	BENGALI.	CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.			
	Weekly.	DIVISION.			
1	"Manbhum"	Purulia	500		
	HINDI.				
	Weekly.				
1	7-4-1	Banchi	550		
	Arya varia				
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISIOS.	***		
	Weekly.				
1	"Hindu Ranjika"	Boalia	. 300		
2		Rangpur	B 400	******	
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
		DACCA DIVISION.	7.		
	Fortnightly.				
1		Faridpur	· About 300		•
	Weekly.				
1		Barisal	. 400		
2		Ditto	-,		
3	"Discon Drakech"	Mymensingh Dacca			
	" Wasing Niveri	Barisal	700	27th ditto. 23rd ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.			)	
	Weekly.				
1	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca	600	21st and 28th Dec. 1903.	
	BENGALL	CHITTAGONG DIVISION		1	
	Tri-monthly.	THE PORT OF THE PROPERTY OF TH			1-7
	. (49-1-3"	Noakhali			
		Noakhali	1,000	•••••	
	Weekly.				
	1 "Jyoti" 2 "Sansodhini"	Chittegong Ditto		24th December 1903.	1
	3 "Sansodhini" 3 "Tripura Hitaishi"	Comilla	000 4- 000		
		··· Commis	200 10 300	22nd December 1903.	
	ENGLISH AND BREGALI.				1 -
	Wookly.				4
	1 "Pratinidhi"	Comilla	400 to 500	26th December 1903.	1
1	2		1 20 00,0	LOVE DOCUMENT 1903.	
	BENGALI.	Assam.			)
· +	Fortnightly.	7 7.	1 - 1	The second second	
			1		
. /	1 "Paridarsak"	dylhet	500		

# I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE Medini Bandhav [Midnapore] of the 23rd December says that Lord Curzon's desire to bring the Shah of Persia over The Shah's treatment of Lord to the side of the English Government was frustrated by the Shah's action in directing the Provincial Curzon. Governors in Persia not to show any mark of honour and respect to His Excellency and thus preventing him from landing in Bushire. The insult thus offered to Lord Curzon has fired the English Press. The Times is advising the English Government to compel the Shah to make an apology. Could the Shah have dared to insult Lord Curzon if a European Power had not been at his

Dec. 28rd, 1903.

back? The Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 25th December has the following:-2.

Lord Curzon's Persian Gulf

tour.

We do not wish to discuss what good the Viceroy's Persian Gulf tour has done. But we believe that the object with which the tour was undertaken has been partly fulfilled. It is a fact that British interests in the Persian Gulf had been suffering for a long time in consequence of the indifference or neglect of the British Government or its inability to come to a decision as to what should be done to protect those interests. And Lord Curzon's visit and his speeches will, at least, to some extent, check the evil. The truth is that friend and foe must join to praise Lord Curzon's diplomacy in this matter. It is true he did not during his visit receive from the Shah of Persia the same respect and honour that he received from the Chiefs who own a sort of allegiance to the British Government. But there was nothing very serious

HITAVADI, Dec. 25th, 1908.

in that. The Basumati [Calcutta] of the 26th December publishes a cartoon, headed "A gcat sacrifice," on the situation in Tibet, A cartoon on the situation in in which that country is represented as a goat on whose two horns the Russian Bear is shown to have fixed its claws and on whose tail the British Lion is shown to have fixed its teeth. Finding Tibet placed between these two, a Napalese (Nepal) is about to strike it with its uplifted sword, while the figure of a Chinaman, gaping in wonder and fear, with hands outstretched and pigtail hanging, is exhibited in the attitude of intercession.

BASUMATI, Dec. 26th, 1903.

# II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

# (a)—Police.

The Medini Bandhav [Midnapore] of the 23rd December says that in MEDINI BANDHAV, spite of the quartering of an additional detective Dec. 28rd, 1908. Crime at Narayangarh in the police force at Narayangarh, in the Midnapore Midnapore district. district, theft and dacoity continue to be committed as before. The local people are living in a state of fear. The authorities should consider whether it is possible for those police officers who have been quartered at the place to check the prevalence of crime there.

5. A correspondent of the Pallivasi [Kalna] of the 23rd December says that, on the 8th December last, one Mr. Bapty, of Cow-killing by a European in a Sitarampur, shot dead a milch cow belonging to Brahman's house.

PALLIVASI, Dec. 23rd, 1903.

Golak Nath Bannerji, of the New Beerbhum Coal Company, when the animal was tethered in front of its owner's house in village Belrui. The shot passed within a few inches of the place where Golak Babu's young daughter, aged 8 or 9, was standing, and caused the girl to faint away. The crime has been rendered all the more heinous by the fact that it has been committed in the house of a Brahman. The killing of a cow in a Brahman's house is a particularly heinous offence according to the Hindu Sastras, and makes the owner of the house liable to perform expiatory rites. A complaint has been made to the Magistrate and the case is sub judice.

BASUMATI, Dec. 26th 1903,

6. The Basumati [Calcutta] of the 26th December reports the two following cases:-The Bengal Police.

(1) Muralidhar was a constable of the Bengal Police at Damukdia Ghat in the Nadia district. He had served Government for 20 years and was known as an able police officer. A short time ago he had asked for

permission to prosecute the European station-master of Damukdia Ghat station on a charge of assault; but permission was refused. In the meantime, the station-master made a complaint against Muralidhar, and an Inspector of Police was deputed to investigate it. The Inspector came, put up at the station-master's quarters, and after making a search of Muralidhar's house, sent him up to Kushtia for trial, the charge against him being that he had lent some money to somebody. At the trial, Muralidhar was acquitted, and the trying Magistrate passed severe strictures against the police. In spite of his acquittal, however, Muralidhar was dismissed from the service of Government.

(2) A District Superintendent of Police, in Northern Bengal had gone into the mufassal on tour and had put up at a dák bungalow. One evening some schoolboys were walking on the road in front of the bungalow. The Police Sub-Inspector who, with some constables, was on guard near the bungalow, told the boys not to go that way. The boys protested that as the road was a public one, they have every right to use it. When, however, they were returning from their walk they were met in front of the bungalow by the District Superintendent of Police, and on their making the same answer to his remon-

strance, that officer abused them in most filthy language.

BANGAVASI Dec. 26th, 1903. 7. We are still in the dark, says the Bangavast [Calcutta] of the 26th December, about Government's intentions in the matter of police reform. An alarming note which concerns only Bengal has, however, been sounded by the Englishman newspaper. The Anglo-Indian journal says that henceforth no police examinations will be held in Bengal, and Bengalis will not be appointed in the higher police service, appointments to which will be made directly from England. It is not known how much truth lies in the Englishman's words, but it cannot be conceived, even in a dream, that Lord Curzon will introduce a system tainted with so much partiality. There are many Bengali District Superintendents of Police, but no one has ever heard anything said against them.

# (b)—Working of the Courts.

SRI SRI VISHNU VRIYA-O-AWANDA BAZAB PATRIKA, Dec. 23rd, 1903. 8. The Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika [Calcutta] of the 23rd December says that the people of Bengal will be extrement. Undge like Mr. Justice Guru Das Banerji. Dr. Banerji has won the love and respect of his countrymen, and all will pray for his long life after retirement. The only consolation of his countrymen at his retirement is that it will enable him to regain his health and devote himself with greater energy to the service of his country. It is expected that Government will appoint Babu Sarada Charan Mitra in Dr. Banerji's place. Sarada Babu is the fittest man for the post, and has already officiated as a Judge.

9. The Sanjivani [Calcutta] of the 24th December says:—

SANJIVANI, Dec. 24th, 1903.

The ensuing retirement of Mr. delight that we hear the news of the coming retirement of the Hon'ble Dr. Gurudas Banerji, the candid, modest, just, and pious Judge of the Calcutta High Court. We are sorry because the number of impartial Judges in the High Court, small already, will become smaller after his retirement, and we are Iglad because Dr. Banerji will be able to devote the remaining days of his life to the service of his mother-country.

SANJIVANI.

10. The same paper says that Mr. Sarada Charan Mitra will succeed Mr. Justice Banerji as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, and that this arrangement will satisfy everybody.

HITA VADI, Dec. 25th, 1903,

Mr. Justice Guru Das Banerji's the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurudas Banerji will, in consequence of ill-health, vacate his seat on the High Court Bench at the end of January next. Justice Banerji has earned the golden opinion of all by his good qualities and has also earned a reputation as a Judge. It is needless to say that his retirement will cause regret throughout Bengal. Justice Banerji's place will

probably be taken by Babu Sarada Charan Mitra, who gave satisfaction to the public on both the occasions he officiated as a Judge. His appointment will please the public.

12. Referring to the case of Jatindra Nath Giri, who was charged, at the last Criminal Sessions of the Calcutta High Court,

The case of Jatindra Nath Giri at the last High Court Sessions.

It is the last High Court Sessions.

It is the last High Court Sessions.

It is with the murder of one Behari Kahar, but who escaped scot-free in consequence of some irregularity in the trial, the same paper says that if the man was guilty it is undoubtedly a mistake on Mr. Justice Prinsep's part that has led to his escape. Why did Mr. Justice Prinsep discharge the jury empannelled in the case, without ascertaining in what proportion they were divided? If the accused escaped for want of sufficient evidence, why did not the Advocate-General enter a nolle prosequi at the outset? If, on the other hand, the accused escaped

because he was innocent, is not the police responsible for unnecessarily harassing an innocent man? There would have been a strong agitation in the country if a white man had been similarly treated.

13. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the harassment to which
Babu Satkari Banerji, a mukhtear of Berhampore,
was subjected by Mr. Carey, District Magistrate.

Magistrate of Murshidabad.

Babu Satkari was suspended by Mr. Carey on the flimsy pretext of intimidating a prosecution witness in certain cases which the Magistrate has instituted against Bibhuti Sekhar Mukherji, a clerk of the Berhampore Magistracy. The mukhtear was acquitted by the High Court at the hearing of the reference which the Magistrate had made to it in the matter. He received this treatment at the Magistrate's hands because he has been Bibhuti Sekhar's mukhtear in the cases pending against him, and the Magistrate said as much in open Court. Government ought to take proper notice of the conduct of a Magistrate who harasses a mukhtear simply on account of his being engaged by a certain accused person.

14. The Samay [Calcutta] of the 25th December is sorry to learn that Dr. Justice Guru Das Banerji's resignation of his seat on the Calcutta High Court

Bench and intends retiring from service in February next. By his many good qualities Dr. Banerji has won the love and deep respect of his countrymen. It is hoped that his retirement will enable him to regain his health and devote himself with greater energy to the service of his country. The writer hopes that Government will not fail to earn the thanks of the native community by appointing Babu Sarada Charan Mitra to the seat which will be vacated by Dr. Banerji.

15. The Mahima [Calcutta] of the 25th December is sorry to learn that Dr. Justice Guru Das Banerji has been compelled by ill-health to send in his resignation of his seat on

the High Court Bench. An affable, kind, and upright Judge like Dr. Banerji is rarely met with. Whether on the High Court Bench or in political and social circles, Dr. Banerji was the very pink of humility and courtesy. The High Court will, in fact, lose a jewel by his retirement. May he enjoy health and long life after his retirement!

Babu Sarada Charan Mitra, who twice ably officiated as a Judge, ought to get the post which will be vacated by Dr. Banerji. Sarada Babu has a better

claim to it than Dr. Mukherji.

16. The Bangarasi [Calcutta] of the 26th December is sorry that the Hon'ble Dr. Guru Das Banerji, the wise, experienced, sud learned Judge of the Calcutta High Court, intends to retire from service on account of ill-health. May God make the remaining days of his life happy. It is almost settled that Mr. Sarada Charan Mitra, who has twice officiated as a Judge of the High Court with great credit, will succeed His Lordship.

17. The Masumati [Calcutta] of the 26th December has the following:—

Mr. Justice Banerji's coming of late in the best of health; but we do not think he

would have been under any necessity to retire from service so soon, if he had been allowed to work in the same manner and under the same conditions and circumstances as Justice Prinsep has been allowed to do.

HITAVADI, Dec 25th 1903.

HITAVADI.

SAMAY, Dec. 25th, 1903.

MAHIMA, 1/ec. 25th, 1903.

BANGAVASI, Dec. 26th, 1903.

BASUMATI, Dec. 26th, 1°08. Justice Banerji would have had, indeed, no occasion to think of retirement so soon if he had not been of late made to attend Court even in ill-health and if the Chief Justice had taken more care about his health instead of taking advantage of his ability and experience to make him do two men's work. Justice Banerji did not become an able and experienced Judge in a day. It takes years for a Judge to become able and experienced, and the older a Judge, the abler and more experienced he is. It has, therefore, been extremely wrong to set a limit to the age of High Court Judges. There is no such limit in England. But, then, India differs from England in every respect. The Indian judiciary, for instance, are not independent like the English judiciary, though, nominally, the Indian High Court Judges are, like their English conferes, called cousins of the Emperor. Practically, all Indian Judges, high and low, are subordinate to and servants of the heads of the executive administrations.

PRATIJNA, Dec. 30th, 1908. 18. The Pratijna [Calcutta] of the 30th December will be glad to see
Babu Sarada Charan Mitra succeed Dr. Justice
Dr. Justice Banerji's successor. Guru Das Banerji on the High Court Bench.
Babu Sarada Charan proved himself an able Judge on the two occasions he officiated.

# (d)—Education.

TRIPURA HITAISHI, Dec. 22nd, 1903. 19. The new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, says the Tripura Hitaishi [Comilla] of the 22nd December, delivered a charming address to the student community of Dacca on the occasion of his recent visit to that town. No other ruler of a country had ever before made such a preacher-like speech. His Honour's words, simple and instinct with sentiments as they were, facinated the audience. A country can greatly benefit if all its rulers give such good advice to their subjects as Sir Andrew Fraser gave.

20. The Sanjivani [Calcutta] of the 24th December says that Babu Adhar

Sanjivani, Dec. 24th, 1903.

Chandra Mukherji, the Head Clerk of the Transfer and Appointment Section of the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, has recently brought out a book on Algebra. Head Masters and Principals of mufassal schools have not the courage to set aside Adhar Babu's book in favour of another. For fear of losing their posts, many of them have introduced this book into their schools even against the wishes of their mathematical teachers. Adhar Babu is known to us, and we also know that he is not qualified enough to be the author of a book on Algebra. But there are reasons for such a book being published in his name. There are a number of other books published in his name, Mr. Pedler will be able to know everything about the matter if he enquires into it. For the sake of the honour and prestige of the Education Department, the circulation of Adhar Babu's book on Algebra should at once be stopped. More of the matter

HITAVADI, Dec. 25th, 1903. hereafter.

The Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 25th December fails to see why people should be sorry to find Rai Saheb Haran Chandra Chandra Rai Saheb Haran Rakshit appointed examiner in Bengali composition Rakshit as an examiner. at the next F. A. examination of the Calcutta University. It is true the Rai Saheb knows neither English nor Bengali well, and the writer has had more occasions than one to draw his attention to the grammatical mistakes he makes in writing Bengali. But when he renders the stories of Shakespeare's dramas into Bengali and has earned the title of Rai Saheb by writing Bengali novels, why should he not be appointed an examiner in the Calcutta University? There is also a peculiar propriety in men like Rai Saheb Haran Chandra being appointed examiners, when the boys of this province are made to learn such Bengali as " আলম্বী মূল " and " আছানিক শিকড় ". As is the University so is the examiner!

BAMAY, Dec. 25th, 1908. Rai Saheb Haran Chandra Rakshit as an examiner.

Rai Saheb Haran Chandra Rakshit appointed as examiner in Bengali composition for the next F. A. examination, Mr. Pedler has given an intimation as would be appointed examiners in the reformed

University, the Sanay [Calcutta] asks, why has the appointment caused so much distress to the Sanjivani? Haran Chandra, though young in years, is not young in his knowledge of the Bengali language. It is probable that if Haran Chandra, instead of being a Hindu, had been a man of the Sanjivani's religious persuasion, the Sanjivani would have praised Mr. Pedler for making this appointment. The Sanjivani said nothing, for instance, when last year Babu Dines Chandra Sen, one of its intimate acquaintances, was appointed examiner in Bengali in the B. A. examination. A comparison between Dines Babu and Haran Babu will not certainly be to the advantage of the former. The writer cannot disapprove of Haran Chandra's appointment, especially as it will enable the young man, burdened as he has been with a title, to earn some money. Under the circumstances, the Sanjivani has acted in a narrow-minded manner by assailing the appointment.

23. The Basumati [Calcutta] of the 26th December writes as follows:-

Rai Saheb Haran Chandra something to perpetuate its name in Indian history. Standing in front of College Square, it has openly

cut its goat at the wrong end, and in so doing it has shown courage incomparable. We are not joking. The fact is that Rai Saheb Haran Chandra Rakshit, the Bengali author, has been appointed examiner in Bengali composition at the F. A. examination by the learned Syndics of the University.

It would be a matter for greater rejoicing if his name next appeared as examiner in composition at the B. A. examination! The Rai Saheb has earned an undying name by translating Lamb's Tales, and we are glad that his financial condition is at last going to improve. But many people are saying (and we hope Haran Babu is pleasing himself by calling such people low minded, malicious creatures) that Government made Haran Babu a Rai Saheb simply to show that its authority in the domain of Bengali literature is unhampered, and that the Calcutta University, the Government's buffoon, appointed Haran Babu an examiner in order to show that Government acted wisely in making Haran Babu a Rai Saheb in appreciation of his merit. On our part, however, we are prepared to pay a tribute of praise to Haran Babu for his tact in pleasing, by sweet words, not only newspaper editors, but even the learned men who constitute the pillars of the Calcutta University. There are many abler men in Bengal who had a better claim than Haran Babu to be appointed an examiner in Bengali composition by the Calcutta University.

24. The Nava Yug [Calcutta] of the 26th December has the following:—

Last week's Sanjivani contains a paragraph
Appointment of Rai Sahab headed "Strange news." It is to the effect that
by appointing Babu Haran Chandra Rakshit as an
examiner of original composition in Bengali at the

r. A. examination, Mr. Pedler has shown from what class of persons examiners in the future reformed University will be selected.

Though we have no means of contradicting the statement made by our contemporary, still we cannot blame Mr. Pedler for the appointment that has been made. The officials see people in the light in which we, editors of newspapers ourselves, choose to represent them. In reviewing the Rai Saheb's Jyotirmoyi we felt it our duty to point out gross grammatical errors in the work, and indicated its many other shortcomings, reproducing in support of our strictures the observations made on it by the Librarian, Bengal Library, in the Calcutta Gazette. But shortly afterwards, we cannot say whether it was due to his tears, or to his language of flattery, or to his bribing, we sang his praise with many tongues, describing him as the one devotee of literature. Nay, not content with singing his praise, we did not feel the least scruple in begging Government to grant him a pension. The Sanjivani may not have done anything of the kind, but many of his worthy contemporaries did, and the result was that Haran Chandra became a Rai Saheb. If there is anything blamable in his appointment as examiner, that blame ought to attach to us and not to Mr. Pedler or the Government. The person, whom we had extolled, to bring a few rupees into whose pocket we had gone up with a prayer to Government, has been dealt with by Government in accordance with our own wishes, and Mr. Pedler, as the head of the Education Department, has tried his

BASUMATI, Dec. 26th, 1903.

Nava Yug. Dec. 26th, 1903. best to see Haran Chandra get some money. For this we can blame neither

Mr. Pedler nor the Government.

One word more. The way in which Bengali is studied and dealt with in the University is such that anybody and everybody can be an examiner in that language. It is an optional subject in the F. A. examination, and the answer papers of the few candidates who may take it up at the next examination will be examined by these gentlemen of whom Haran Chandra is one. For conducting the examination he is likely to get an honorarium of two hundred rupees at the most. So, it is rather unbecoming to say anything on the matter. Moreover, considering that men like Pandit Mahendra Chandra Vidyanidhi, Yajneshwar Banerji, and Damodar Mukherj were appointed examiners in that subject in the past, it would be wiser not to condemn Haran Chandra's appointment on the ground of impropriety.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

Pattivasi, Dec. 23rd, 1903. The proposed extension of the Asansol Municipality.

The proposed extension of the Municipality.

The proposed extension of the Asansol Municipality, in the Asansol Municipality, in the Burdwan district, has caused a panic among the European may be indifferent to the feelings of the villagers, but the native Commissioners should not turn a deaf ear to the cries of their fellow-countrymen.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Dec. 23rd, 1903, 26. With reference to the new rules for the sale of Government quinine, the Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika
The new rules for the sale of [Calcutta] of the 23rd December asks if the advice to patients to take such a heavy dose as 21 grains every day would not be injurious to them, considering that doctors never

Municipality served a notice on Babu Mahendra

prescribe more than 12 to 15 grains a day.

27. The same paper says that on the 24th October last, the Calcutta

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA.

A complant against the Calcutta Lal Sur, owner of premises No. 41-2, Bagbazar Street, requiring him to stop, within two days, some unknown leakage in his water-pipe and also warning him that if he failed to comply, his water connection would be severed. Mahendra Babu asked the municipal authorities, in reply, to point out the leakage. But instead of doing that the Municipality cut off his water connection, and not till ten days later, after all his pipes had been examined and found faultless, was the connection restored. On Mahendra Babu bringing the matter to the notice of the Chairman and demanding compensation for his loss, he was told that his stop-cock was loose, although the same cock still exists. Complaints about municipal oppression are being constantly received from different parts of the town, and it is high time that the authorities put a stop to it. Alas, the unlucky moment the new Municipal Act for Calcutta was passed! The boundless power conferred by the Act on the municipal executive is making it

Bangavasi, Dec. 26th, 1903. 28. A correspondent of ours, says the Bangavasi [Calcutta] of the 26th

Septic tank latrines.

Septic tank latrines.

Rishra Mill near Calcutta desire to construct a septic tank latrine for the mill men in spite of the objection raised by the local people. How is it that when Government has announced in the Legislative Council that the matter is still under its consideration, the authorities of some mills are constructing such latrines?

# (f)—Questions affecting the land.

MEDINI BANDHAY, Dec. 23rd, 1903. 29. A correspondent of the Medini Bandhav [Midnapore] of the 23rd December speaks of the prevalence of severe distrest.

December speaks of the prevalence of severe distress in the Doro pargana khas mahal in the Midnapore district. The failure of the autumnal crop has brought about this state of things. The khas mahal was at first under the Deputy Collector of Contai, a place nearly 42 miles distant. Afterwards it was transferred to the Tamluk subdivision. But the authorities desire

to transfer it to the Contai subdivision on the ground that it is seriously mismanaged. Government is requested not to do so. Why should the khas mahal men be subjected to inconvenience and loss because some Government servants in the Tamluk subdivision are bad and inefficient? The want of a charitable dispensary and a high school in the khas mahal is complained of.

(g)-Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

30. A correspondent of the Sanjivani [Calcutta] of the 24th December says that there is a lock-gate across the Suryyapur The mouth of a khal blocked in khal within the Diamond Harbour subdivision of the 24-Parganas. the 24-Parganas for the benefit of the health and agriculture of the villages under the Magrahat thana. But last year enough water could not flow out of the khal owing to its mouth being blocked by a deposit of sand. Excess of water in the khal has this year destroyed the crops and given birth to violent epidemics. Government is asked to save the lives of the local people from famine and disease by kindly opening out the mouth of the khal.

31. The Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 25th December has received the

following railway complaints:

Railway complaints. (1) One Bijay Nath Basu, writing from Chilkigarh in the Midnapore district, says that the practice of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities of making the Kharagpur-Suri passenger train leave Kharagpur a short time before the arrival of the Midnapore passenger train at that station inflicts great hardship on passengers by the latter train who wish to avail themselves of the former. They have to wait at Kharagpur a whole night and the following day up to 3 P.M. before they can catch the Suri passenger train. This inconvenience can be easily removed by starting the Suri passenger train a few minutes after the arrival of the Midnapore passenger train. The correspondent also draws attention to the following inconveniences on this line:—(a) Want of return intermediate-class tickets; (b) absence of a lady ticket checker at Kharagpur; (c) detaching at Kharagpur a carriage from the Bombay Mail train, and of compelling passengers who have to remove from that carriage to have their luggage removed at their own cost.

(2) Satya Kinkar Basu, writing from Alu Posta Bazar, Calcutta, says that of the 158 bags of potatoes which were booked, at owner's risk, at the Dinapore station for Babu Akshay Kumar Rai on the 1st December last, only 142 bags could be found at the time of taking delivery. The matter has been brought to the notice of the Goods Superintendent, but no reply has yet been received from him. Goods are evidently stolen at the booking station and the thefts are not traced, simply through the neglect of the authorities. It would almost seem as if the latter wink at the crimes of their subordinates in consideration of the poor salary they pay them and do not, therefore, object to their eking

out their poor incomes by theft of goods sent at owner's risk.

(3) A correspondent who was travelling from Jamalpur to Calcutta, on the 20th December last, by No. 20 Down train of the East Indian Railway, complains of the inconvenience that was caused to him and his fellow-passengers by reason of there having been only one and-a-half intermediate class carriages and only one second-class carriage in the train, and by reason of the intermediate class carriages having been without sleeping accommodation and water-closets. At Sahebganj, at 9-30 P.M., the occupiers of an intermediate-class compartment were compelled to remove to a third-class carriage in order to make room for a European passenger, who was no other than the stationmaster of Sahebganj himself, then coming to Calcutta with a free pass. Was it right for the station-master to inconvenience passengers, especially on a winter's night, in order to accommodate himself? At this station, a second-class native passenger was not allowed to enter the only second-class carriage because it contained a European passenger, and also because the latter expected his wife to join him at Rampur Hat.

32. In reply to the question, says the Bangavasi [Calcutta] of the 26th December, recently put in the Bengal Legislative Railway complaints. Council by the Hon'ble Babu Tarini Prasad about

Sabliable, Dec. 24th, 1903.

HITAVADI, Dec. 25th, 1903.

> BANGAVASI, Dec. 26th, 1903.

"herding of third-class passengers in goods wagons on the East Indian Railway," Government said that "the use of covered goods wagons for the conveyance of passengers is at times necessary and unavoidable to meet exceptional rushes of passenger traffic." "Exceptional rushes of passenger traffic" occur at times of melas and religious festivities, and it is not difficult to make arrangements beforehand to meet the exigencies. If smallness of the number of passenger carriages be the real cause of this difficulty, why is not their number increased?

The down local train which arrives at Howrah at 3 P.M. is nowadays crowded with railway coolies. With their dirty clothes and bodies and with loads of firewood on their heads, these coolies become a source of great inconvenience and hardship to respectable passengers. These coolies should be provided with separate carriages. Is it because the forbearance of Indian passengers is great, that they should be subjected to all sorts of inconvenience

and hardship?

NIHAR, Dec. 29th, 1903. A that in the Midnapore district.

Excavation will facilitate not only drainage and irrigation, but also navigation, and will materially improve the health and condition of the people living on its banks. The proposal has been long hanging fire and its execution should no longer be delayed. A gate should be constructed either in the middle or at one end of the khal to prevent its receiving water, at high tide, from both the rivers Hooghly and Rasulpur which it connects. The silt from the two rivers quickly fills it up.

# (h) - General.

DACCA GAZETTE, Dec. 21st, 1903. 34. The Dacca Gazette [Dacca] of the 21st December contains the following in its English columns:—

The proposed territorial changes. It is impossible to describe the consternation which has been caused in the popular mind in this part of Bengal by the publication of Mr. Risley's letter to the Government of Bengal proposing territorial changes of an extremely revolutionary character. The proposals about the transfer of the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh and the Chittagong Division to Assam have been put forward in a form which leaves very little doubt as to the Government of India having consulted all, or nearly all, the local authorities concerned in the matter and having formed a decisive opinion. It is extremely to be regretted that the Government of Lord Curzon, which has generally paid attention to expressions of public opinion in the Press and elsewhere, should, in a matter of such vital importance to a large, cultured, and thickly populated portion of Bengal, have matured its plans in such secrecy and arrived at conclusions in utter defiance of public opinion. The people of the Chittagong Division have protested in the most clear and emphatic manner possible againt the proposed severance of that Division from Bengal. But as though to emphasize its supreme indifference to, and utter disregard of, public opinion, the Government of India comes forward with schemes affecting far wider areas and more ancient, influential and progressive communities. The proposal to sever the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh from Bengal—the Province to which thay have been attached for centuries upon centuries by the closet ties of language, religion, administration, and social connections—has fallen like a thunderbolt upon the people of these districts. It is now the all-absorbing topic in these parts. The people are picturing before their minds' eye the result of this change. In place of an enlightened and generally progressive administration, assisted in its duties and checked in its occasional vagaries by representative institutions and a powerful Press, they see an administration dominated by the interests of European adventurers applying to the people newly placed under its charge the despotic principles and repressive measures which had hitherto guided its methods. In place of a Government legislating with the aid of elected members whose learning, public spirit, and ability would do honour to any legislative assembly in the world, they see an administration drawing its light and guidance from a European community notorious for their utter indifference towards labourers, their selfishness, and their

disregard of the rights and interests of natives. In place of rule by members of a Civil Service, who, in Bengal at least, have never been able to entirely disregard and defy public opinion, they will find themselves governed by officials who have never been made to feel the curb of a free Press and the wholesome dread of an interpellation in a Legislative Council, in whom despetic instincts, inherent in human nature, have been—with few honourable exceptions—developed into the crudest and most arbitrary principles of rule by training in the art of government in some of the wildest and most uncivilized parts of India. With all these and many other pictures before their minds' eye it is not strange that there is an agitation against the proposed measure that convulses the entire population of these districts and that will, we may confidently predict, very soon display itself most unmistakably in the shape of public meetings and strong representations to Government.

The letter of the Government of India makes it clear that the Government has foreseen this outburst of popular indignation. But at the same time, Government has thought it proper to express its disinclination to listen to any "artificial agitation" or "interested outcry." These terms, which one would think are hardly consistent with the dignity of an official document emanating from such a high authority, are vague and indefinite enough; but if they are intended to be applied, and are, as a matter of fact, applied, to the spectacles which Dacca and Mymensingh will shortly present to the world, then surely the Government of the country will show itself fully deserving of the reproach of having lost all touch with the people whose destinies are placed under its care. We can assure the Government that the outburst is spontaneous, that its causes lie deep in the cherished traditions of the people of these parts, and that the proposed severance will have the same effect as the forcible tearing off of a limb from the human body has upon the whole body.

In our next issue, we shall deal with some of the arguments that have

been adduced in favour of the proposed change.

35. Referring to the proposed transfer, the Charu Mihir [Mymensingh] of the 22nd December writes as follows:—

The proposed dismemberment of Bengal.

The proposed transfer has already raised loud wailings in the different parts of the Mymensingh

District. Considering the gravity of the question involved, we ask the inhabitants of the district to lose no time in appearing in the field. Our rulers are foreigners, they may not fully realise the depth of our anguish, but we are confident that they will not be displeased with us, if we place before them our sorrows and grievances in a proper form.

Inhabitants of Mymensingh! There is no time to lose; shake off lethargy and devote yourselves for some time in a self-sacrificing spirit to the service of your mother-country. The impending danger concerns not only the public as a whole, but also everybody taken individually. In culture and education the Mymensingh people are inferior to none in Bengal and in matters social, domestic, and political, they have through centuries been bound by indissoluble ties with the inhabitants of the other districts of the province. But Mr. Risley is going to break these ties. Of two brothers, one is going to be a Bengali and the other an Assamese; the interests of one will be different from the interests of the other; and one will grow under the superior administration of Bengal, and the other will dwindle under the inferior administration of Assam. The very thought that, after 20 or 25 years, the Mymensingh people will be different men from Bengalis, is tormenting.

In origin, race, and language we are different from the Assamese. Our national language will suffer great deterioration by contact with the Assamese

language. We shudder at the very thought.

Some people are, perhaps, exultant over the idea that the proposed transfer will make the prospects of service brighter for Dacca and Mymensingh people, but they are deceived in thinking thus. The Government of Assam will never allow Dacca and Mymensingh people to have the upperhand in it. Their sphere of action, small already, will be made smaller by the proposed transfer. The half-educated Assamese will continue to be the lords of the administration of the country, and we shall be judged and tried by them. What a misfortune!

CHARU MIRTR, Dec. 22nd, 1988,

The fact that Assam does not possess "a definite and intelligible western boundary" has never given rise to any difficulty in the administration of the country. North of Mymensingh the Garo hills form the southern boundary of Assam, and in the east the wide expanse of the Meghna separates Dacca and Mymensingh from other districts. If Mr. Risley had not been short-sighted, he would surely have seen these permanent boundary lines. Mr. Risley desires to make the Brahmaputra river the western boundary of Assam. But does he not know that the course of the Jabuna river is so variable, that it makes constant changes in the areas of the Rangpur, Pabna, Mymensingh, and Dacca districts? If Mr. Risley's proposal is carried out, the land which is, in one year, within the jurisdiction of the Bengal Board of Revenue, will, the next year, be transferred to that of the Government of Assam. Who knows through what part of the country the river Jabuna will flow in no far futurity? Dacca and Mymensingh are separated from Bengal by the Jabuna only geographically, but the Garo hills and the Meghna and Surma rivers make not only a geographical, but also a physical, political, social, and lingual separation thereof from Assam.

Mr. Risley's æsthetic faculty must be very highly developed, else he would not have been frightened by the idea that Dacca and Mymensingh would form a projection into Assam. The Rajshahi district projects from the north of Assam and extends to the Himalayas. And if the proposal of bringing all the Uriya-speaking districts under Bengal is carried out, they will constitute a very big projection. While trying to destroy one projection, Mr. Risley is

going to create a much bigger one.

The proposed dismemberment

By saying that Dacca and Mymensingh are separated from Assam "by no ties either of origin, language, religion and administration," Mr. Risley has added insult to the injury sought to be inflicted upon the inhabitants of those districts.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRITA-0-MANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Dec. 23rd, 1903.

The Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika, [Calcutta] of the 23rd December has the following:—

Last week we announced this dreadful news of Bengal. of the proposed dismemberment of Bengal with all its details. In this connection reasonable protests have appeared and are being still published in the Englishman and other Anglo-Indian dailies. The Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong newspapers are in their pathetic opposition giving voice to the heart-felt grief of the people of those districts in different places in which monster protest meetings are being held. This dreadful news has deeply pained them, has, in fact, quite upset and maddened them, and they are by no means willing to place themselves under the rule of the Chief Commissioner of Assam. Five wealthy men in the Dacca Division have agreed to pay Rs. 20,000 for the purpose of making a protest and agitation. Will the Government, under these circumstances, enforce its proposed administrative policy placing the people of those districts anywhere it likes, like so many goats and sheep, like so many cats and dogs? It is our firm conviction that the noble-minded Lord Curzon, who possesses a sound judgment, will never needlessly embark upon such an unpopular measure. It seems to us that it is extremely impolitic to needlessly keep the public in such a state of unrest.

We find nothing in Mr. Risley's letter which is supported by sound arguments, though an exception, it must be admitted, ought to be made in favour of the eminently reasonable proposal to transfer Ganjam and Sambalpur to Bengal, on the ground that the language of the people of those two places is Uriya. There can be no doubt that both the Governments of Madras and the Central Provinces find the greatest difficulty and inconvenience in dealing with the inhabitants of Ganjam and Sambalpur, inasmuch as the local officials

do not understand their language.

Mr. Risley is an euthusiastic ethnologist, and in his eagerness to make an exhibition of his proficiency in ethnology is extremely anxious to lay down the boundaries of Bengal on a scientific method, based on considerations of language, and social manners, and customs. Learned man as he is, how long could be remain silent? He has at length found his opportunity. That is why he has bound the inhabitants of Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong in the same string with those of Assam, taking all of them to be one and the same

in regard to language, manners, customs, and sentiment. Why is not something done to enable Mr. Risley to obtain a fitting reward from Government and the native public for the unprecedented experience which he has acquired by his long residence in this country? It has now become the first and foremost duty of the people of these Provinces to hold a meeting in the Town

Hall for the purpose of conveying their thanks to Mr. Risley.

Mr. Risley has forgotten what the place of Dacca is in the history of Bengal. Is this due to his age, or the intoxication of official position? Mr. Risley would make the Brahmaputra one of the boundaries of Bengal, and it never struck him that a river is only a shifting current. Why did not he propose to give a permanent boundary to Assam by making the Garo Hills serve as such a boundary? If the happy dream about Tibet is ever realised. Government may some day declare the northern part of the Ganges to be the southern boundary of that country.

37. The Pallivasi [Kalna] of the 23rd December asks if the special favour shown to Europeans and Eurasians in the The new Secretariat Clerkship

framing of the new rules for the filling up of vacancies in the Bengal Secretariat will not cause heart-burning to natives. European and Eurasian candidates, who have passed only the F. A. examination of the Calcutta University, will be considered eligible for employment in posts which, if given to natives, might have been filled with M. A.'s. What have native graduates done to deserve such treatment? Will the new rules redound to the credit of the Calcutta University? Merit should be the only standard by which candidates for employment in Government service should be selected.

38. The Sanjivani [Calcutta] of the 24th December thanks the Government of India for raising the maximum weight of Reduction of newspaper postage. privileged newspapers to six tolas.

39. Referring to the proposed transfer, the Jyots [Chittagong] of the 24th December writes as follows:—

The proposed dismemberment

Officials have all along been trying to lure the Chittagong people into the belief that the proposed transfer will greatly conduce to the prosperity of the Division, and many of those who either own lands and houses in Chittagong town or ply any trade there have, without doubt, been dreaming pleasant dreams. But among the vast majority of the inhabitants of the district, the proposal has created a panic and a consternation. They believe that an ordinary Assamese is not more civilised than the Kuki who inhabits the hills of Chittagong, that the Assam Government rules them as barbarians should be ruled, and that oppressions committed by Europeans on the Assamese are allowed by Assam officials to go unpunished. What feelings the proposal has excited in the minds of the Chittagong people after living for 150 years under the efficient and enlightened Government of Bengal may be easily surmised. As a matter of fact, it is the one topic in speech and discourse among them now. Great is the panic that prevails in the country.

In holding back the memorial which the Chittagong Association submitted to the Government of Bengal for favour of being forwarded to the Government of India, the former Government said that it would be forwarded to the latter when the proper occasion for doing so should arise. And now the Government of India says that "the people of Chittagong themselves, who have previously been opposed to the transfer, are understood to have changed their view and to be largely in favour of the change." But we can confidently say that they have not changed their view. The opinion of Mr. Geake or any other person should not be considered to mean the opinion of the Chittagong people. We pray to the Government to listen to public opinion and clearly tell the public what it means to do, and then make such changes as it thinks fit.

40. The Controller of Military Accounts, Calcutta, says the Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 25th December, has grown so fond Injustice to native clerks in a of employing Eurasian Assistants in his office that Government office. he does not hesitate to fill up nine vacancies out of ten in his office with Eurasians. Vacancies in the higher grades are invariably filled up with Eurasian outsiders, to the supersession of the unfortunate Bengali clerks in the lower grades. The injustice thus done to the latter having

PALLIVASI, Dec. 23rd, 1903.

BANJIVANI, Dec. 24th, 1903

JTOTI, Dec. 24th, 1903

HITAVADI. Dec. 25th, 1908. formed the subject of newspaper agitation, the officer wrote to the Controllers in Bombay, Madras, and Rawalpindi, telling them how advisable it would be to employ Eurasian Assistants in their offices. The Controller of Rawalpindi replied that the Bengali clerks were the pillars of his office, and that to drive them out would be to bring his office to a standstill. It is to be hoped that this reply will bring the Calcutta Controller to his senses.

HITAVADI, Dec. 25th, 1908.

Lord Curzon is ruling over this vast country

The proposed redistribution of of India; yet he does not feel the task heavy,
territorial jurisdictions.

because the task has been divided. Why then

should the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal find it hard to rule over the whole of Bengal, when his charge is divided into districts? If the extensive area of the Lower Provinces really appears likely to throw obstacles in the way of good government, then the remedy will be found in the creation of a few more districts. The public are unable to understand why, instead of adopting this course, the authorities have proposed a dismemberment of the province, or what good the people in general will reap from an enlargement of the province of Assam. A more explicit explanation from the Government would have caused

less anxiety in the public mind.

It does not also appear a right thing to propose to compensate Bengal by adding to it the whole of the Uriya-speaking tracts. Government ought to have clearly explained how the task of the Madras and the Central Provinces Administrations will be lightened, and how Bengal will benefit by the adoption of such a course. If it appears right to Government that peoples speaking the same tongue should live under the same Administration, how does it defend the proposed separation from Bengal of peoples who speak the Bengali tongue? What, again, will remain for Bengal if the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh and the Division of Chittagong are detached from it? It may be all very well for Mr. Risley or the Government of India to make light of the prejudices of the people, to say that their anxiety is groundless, and to pay no heed to their agitation. But such conduct will not reassure the public mind.

We fail to see any necessity for the proposed change, and we are of opinion that the change, if effected, will do no good to the people and will prove that the desire of the authorities to effect it is stronger than the people's prejudice against it. Nay, we think, that the change will be positively injurious to Bengal, to its lauguage, and to its people. East Bengal is not only the foremost part of Bengal, but its people are bound by ties of blood, language, literature, customs, and manners to the people of the other parts of the province. On the other hand, there exist no such ties between them and the people of Assam. Would it not, under the circumstances, be injurious to them to be detached from Bengal and to be united with the Assamese? We can, indeed, see no reason for such a transfer. Will it not be amusing to find East Bengal, the glory of Bengal, transferred to Assam and the Uriya country incorporated with Bengal?

It will be idle to hope that the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who is a perfect stranger to the province, will be able to give a sound opinion on the proposals of the Government of India. We can hardly conceive that, new to the province as he is, His Honour will oppose them.

42. The Samay [Calcutta] of the 25th December writes as follows:—

SAMAY, Dec. 25th, 1903.

The new rules relating to the Bengal Secretariat elerical service.

The Congress and the educated community of this country have been for a long time urging the Government to employ natives more largely in the public service, high and low; and Government tions, held out the hope that it will do so. High officials too have given similar assurances. But a recent circular of the Government of Bengal has taken us quite aback. This circular, if carried into effect will blest all our hopes.

us quite aback. This circular of the Government of Bengal has taken and expectations. The circular is issued from the Financial Department and is published at page 1578 of the Calcutta Gazette of the 9th December last. It says:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to direct that the following revised rules shall be substituted for Rules 1, 4, 5, 10, and 11 of the Rules for regulation of appointments in the Secretariat clerical service of the Government of Bengal and attached offices, etc."

How Government will henceforward fill up the clerical service is indicated in the following extracts from the circular:

(1) "The clerical service of the Secretariat of the Government of Bengal and of the attached offices will no longer be divided into two sections, the upper and lower divisions. Promotion will, in future, be regulated throughout each office by seniority and merit combined."

(2) "In the Bengal Secretariat (proper) which has a special cadre for Europeans and Eurasians, promotion and appointment to that cadre will be regulated by the following

conditions:-

"(a) Forty appointments hereinafter called the special cadre will be specially reserved in the Secretariat for Europeans and Eurasians. The appointments are the following:—12 for the departments under the Chief Secretary; 9 for those under the Revenue Secretary; 9 for those under the Financial Secretary; and 10 for those under the Secretaries in the Public Works Department."

The circular is, however, silent about the employment of natives. Government does not probably like to see its offices filled with native clerks and has, therefore, made the above rules. Praised be the Government of Bengal for thus providing forty posts for its kith and kin and for Eurasians! The circular, it is needless to say, will be carried out to the letter What has caused us pain is the fact that the new Lieutenant-Governor should have issued such a circular before being even fully installed in his musnud. Does not the Vicerov know anything about this circular? He is always ready, at least by word of mouth, to give us hopes and assurances. Have all his assurances come to this at last?

The Mahima [Calcutta] of the 25th December says that the Superin-43. tendent of the Army Clothing Office near Calcutta The Army Clothing Office. is in the habit of frequently transferring his clerks from one department to another, the result of which is that clerks who have acquired efficiency in one department fail to give proof of equal efficiency in another. But the Superintendent is not slow to punish transferred clerks who fail to give satisfaction.

The Superintendent has a great antipathy to Hindu clerks. He lately wrote to the head of a school that he was prepared to give employment to

other than Hindu boys.

44. The same paper says that the fondness of the Controller of Military Accounts, Bengal, for Eurasian clerks has lately The Controller of Military grown so strong that he did not hesitate to give Accounts, Bengal. nine out of the ten vacancies which recently occurred in his office to Eurasian outsiders, thereby superseding the claims of the native clerks who serve in the lower posts. The Controller also wired to the Controllers in other provinces to join him in memorialising the Government of India for the employment of Eurasian clerks in their offices more largely than at present. But the Rawalpindi Controller refused to accede to the request,

45. The Howrah Hitaishi [Howrah] of the 26th December thanks I ord HOWBAH HITAISHI, Curzon and Mr. Stewart Wilson, Officiating Direc-Reduction of newspaper postage. tor-General of the Indian Post Office, for the boon they have recently conferred on the Indian public by making newspapers

weighing up to six tolas transmissible by post for one pice only.

as he was very much satisfied with the work of his Bengali clerks.

46. Lord Curzon, says the Naya Yug [Calcutta] of the 26th December, said that he would carry out twelve reforms. But Lord Curzon's reforms. we do not know how many of these have been carried out during the last five years of his Viceroyalty. It is now clear that the dismemberment of the province of Bengal and the addition of more territory to Assam was one of the twelve reforms which the Viceroy had in his mind. The way in which he is going to deal with Bengal and Assam makes it also clear that if he remains in India five years more, the map of India will be completely changed and a new geography, under the style of "Geography of Curzonian India," will have to be written. The writer is not also sure that the metropolis of India will not be transferred from Calcutta to Delhi.

47. The Cuttack correspondent of the Bargavusi [Calcutta] of the 26th December says that the educated section of the The proposed pilgrim tax at inhabitants of Puri town have unanimously expressed themselves against the proposed pilgrin tax.

MAHIMA, Dec. 25th, 1903.

MAHIMA

NAVA YUG. Dec. 26th, 1908.

BANG AVASI, Dec. 26th, 1908. They have brought forward various reasons in support of their view. One of these is that since the construction of railway lines to Puri the amount of lodging-house fee realised there has been steadily increasing year after year. Last year the amount realised was Rs. 25,000, besides Rs. 4,000 realised as fines for infringements of the Lodging-house Act. There are, just now, Rs. 45,000 in the Lodging-house Fund. If the District Magistrate judiciously uses the Fund and the money of the local Municipality for the good of the town, many hygienic reforms may be introduced without any necessity being felt for the imposition of a pilgrim tax. The editor hopes that in the face of so much opposition from the Hindus, Government will desist from imposing the proposed tax.

BANGAVASI. Dec. 26th 1903. 48. The same paper has the following: -

The proposed dismemberment Calcutta at this time. Wild waves of agitation have risen on all sides—waves that are rising higher and higher and threaten to overflow Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong. Five gentlemen of Dacca have contributed Rs. 20,000 in aid of this agitation, and no wonder. A correspondent of the *Pioneer* writes:—

"It is not as exciting as the Official Secret Bill, but it is more interesting than the Universities Bill, both legislative measures, which are likely to hold the field for some weeks to come. I refer to the proposals of the Government of India to reconstruct Bengal."

The authorities seem to think that Chittagong will make no strong objection to the proposed amalgamation—a view which was favoured at first by the *Englishman* newspaper, but has now been abandoned by it in these words:—

"Apparently we were mistaken in supposing that the spirit of local opposition to the transfer of Chittagong had died out. A correspondent whose letter we print elsewhere, assures us the popular feeling is intensely hostile to the proposed change. From Dacca and Mymensingh come rumours of a still more formidable movement."

No rumours, but a veritable fact. Very large numbers of protests against the proposal are being published in the newspapers. A monster meeting has been held in Calcutta. Meetings are being held in all parts of Dacca and Mymensingh. Memorials are being sent to the Viceroy and more memorials are about to be sent. That is why we say that it is well that the Viceroy has returned to Calcutta. People will now have an opportunity of explaining matters and representing their grievences to him in writing as well as by word of mouth. The wail and the agitation will show the Viceroy how matters really stand, and sensible as he is, he will provide the right remedy. If he does not, we shall have only our luck to thank. How piteous but how unavailing was the wail that was raised against the Consent Bill by all India from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin!

The majority of the protests against the proposed change insist upon the language difference between Assam on the one hand and Dacca and Mymensingh on the other. It is strange that while this difference has been recognised by Government as constituting an administrative difficulty when advocating the transfer of the Uriya-speaking population from the jurisdiction of Madras and the Central Provinces to that of Bengal, it has been entirely ignored by it when recommending the transfer of Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong to Assam. The spoken language of those three places may have points of dissimilarity with the spoken language of other parts of Bengal, but not the written language. Indeed, many writers of those parts are recognised as standard Bengali writers. Bengali and Assamese, however, are two different languages.

So undeveloped still is the administration of Assam that places which like Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong have so long been under a developed administration like that of Bengal can by no means be amalgamated with it. In our last article on this subject we have shown how the administration of Assam is still undeveloped and susceptible of reform. (Report on Native papers for 26th December 1903, paragraph 41.)

One statement of Mr. Risley's is rather curious. He says that thirty years ago, when Cachar and Sylhet were amalgamated with Assam, many were opposed to the change and strongly protested against it; but if the people of

those two districts were now asked whether they wish to be re-transferred to

Bengal they would not, he thinks, consent to such re-transfer.

But mere belief is not proof. Did Government really put the question to the people of Sylhet and Cachar? One thing is, however, evident from Government's own words, namely, that these people were transferred to Assam against their will. During these thirty years they have got accustomed to the ways and habits of Assam. Force a man to live in a forest and let him once get accustomed to forest-life, and he will not probably find town-life pleasurable again. Besides, as regards ways and habits, education and training, Sylhet and Cachar then stood much in the same relation to Assam as Dacca and Mymensingh now do to Bengal.

One argument urged in favour of the transfer of Dacca and Mymensingh to Assam is the distance of the latter place from Calcutta and its consequent inaccessibility for purposes of visits by the Lieutenant-Governor. But Mymensingh, as many know, is only 14 hours' journey from Calcutta, while the remotest subdivision of Mymensingh is so much as five days' journey from Shillong, the head-quarters of Assam. Judge now of the comparative facilities

for gubernatorial visits in the two cases.

Another argument advanced in favour of the proposed dismemberment is that the port of Chittagong, which is now cast quite into the shade by Calcutta and cannot therefore prosper, will thrive if the Chittagong Division be transferred to Assam. But it was on a precisely similar ground, namely, that it was cast quite into the shade by Bombay, that the port of Karachi was sought to be transferred to the Punjab. But the Governor of Bombay, who was a courageous statesman, protested against this proposal and the proposal was dropped. Karachi. however, has thrived under Bombay, and Chittagong is thriving even now under Bengal.

49. The Basumati [Calcutta] of the 26th December says that it has been settled that Europeans and Eurasians shall have preference in Government offices over natives.

The rules sanctioned for the Bengal Secretariat are enough to show what practice will be followed in other Secretariats. The higher grade clerkship examination has been abolished, and Europeans and Eurasians will no longer have to enter the lower grade clerkships. The examination system for natives also appears to be in danger of being abolished.

Henceforward forty posts in the Bengal Secretariat will be kept reserved for Europeans and Eurasians, and will be given to such Europeans and Eurasians as the heads of the offices shall select. The lowest of these posts will be worth sixty rupees, and the highest four hundred rupees a month. The Registrarships will remain the monopoly, as at present, of Europeans and Eurasians. One Registrarship is at present held by a native, namely, Rai Surendra Nath Mitra, Bahadur. And Government does not probably venture to deprive him of his post, for fear of being called upon by the Home Government to explain such a course of action. Babu Jnan Chandra Chaudhuri has failed to become a Registrar, but he has been given an allowance of Rs. 100. A similar allowance has also been granted to a European, named Edwards, because otherwise, the allowance granted to Babu Jnan Chandra would have created heart-burning among the European and Eurasian clerks.

It is crying in the wilderness to ask Government to allot posts in Government offices to different nationalities in the proportion of their numerical strength, or to fill them by the sole test of merit. Government will always divide its employés into three classes. The European employés will always belong to the first class, the Eurasians to the second, and the natives to the third. At times among natives, preference is given to Musalmans over Hindus. It is true Eurasians are at present placed in the same category with Europeans, but this

equality will not last for ever.

Praised be Sir Andrew Fraser for the service he has rendered to the

natives at the very outset of his rule!

50. The Dacca Prakas [Dacca] of the 27th December writes as

The proposed dismemberment of The effect of the proposed dismemberment of Bengal will be not only to weaken the Bengali nation, but also to do a great and permanant injury to all India. Therefore

BASUMATI, Dec. 26th, 1903.

Dec. 27th, 1964

every man who loves India and has India's good at heart, ought to raise his voice against the proposal. The part which Bengal plays in the political sphere of India is not to be slighted. Every well-wisher of India should, therefore, do his utmost to prevent a division of the Bengali nation. The proposed separation of Dacca, Mymensingh, Noakhali, Comilla, and Chittagong from Bengal will deprive the Bengali nation of one-third of its strength—without doubt, a great national danger. Just as it is unseemly to ascribe different fathers to children of the same blood, so it is unnatural to place the Bengali nation under two Governments.

It is hard to imagine that the authorities will feel delighted to see the sufferings and heart-burnings of the people. But what other conclusion can be drawn from seeing its action in the matter under discussion? What sort of a policy is that which directs a Government to force an arrangement upon a people who unaninously declare it to be dangerous to their well-being? The inhabitants of Dacca and Mymensingh are, one and all, vehemently protesting against the revolutionary proposal, and arrangements are being made to hold monster meetings in both places in order to give a shape to their protests. Brethren of Dacca and Mymensingh! You have engaged yours lves in the noble work of saving your nation from a severe calamity; do your work with untiring energy and indomitable courage, and fear not the frowns of officials. If you fail to devote yourselves head and heart to the work of preventing yourselves from being deprived of the great and glorious property which you have inherited from your forefathers, namely, the privilege of being called "Bengalis," the sooner your existence vanishes from this world the better. Join your hands to raise a fierce agitation, and your object will be gained, for the Almighty will help you in this noble work.

It makes one tremble and shudder to think that the highly cultured people of five East Bengal districts will be thrown into social combination with the naked barbarians of Assam, and brought under the rule of despotic Assam officials. What a degradation! What a misfortune!

The proposal has struck terror into the hearts of the Dacca and Mymensingh people. Many protest meetings have already been held at Dacca, Mymensingh, Muktagachha, Sherpur, &c. On the 20th December last, a meeting was held at Dacca under the Presidentship of Babu Hem Chandra Ray Chaudhuri, zamindar of Dhankorha. Rai Kali Prasanna Ghosh, Bahadur, and Babu Ananda Chandra Ray, pleader, explained the object of the meeting briefly and in suitable terms An Executive Committee was appointed, and the following petition was sent to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal:—

"Sir,—I have the honour to request the favour of your bringing to the notice of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that at a largely attended preliminary meeting of the zamindars and talukdars of this district now present in town, held in the afternoon of the .0th December current. It was unanimously resolved to enter a strong but respectful protest against the proposed transfer of the district of Dacca to the Administration of Assam, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to take steps to convene a general neeting of the zamindars, talukdars and other landed preprietors of this district at an early date to submit a representation to the Government. The meeting has further authorized me to solicit the favour of His Honour's deferring his reply to the letter of the Government of India on the subject of the transfer till receipt of our humble representation."

The activity of the Dacca People's Association, of which Babu Ananda Chandra Ray is the President, is really praiseworthy. It is sending agents to the mufassal to create and encourage agitation throughout East Bengal. If necessary, the agitation will be carried to the door of the Royal Palace in London, and the King-Emperor will be approached with a protest against the proposal of the Government of India. Subscriptions are being raised in all parts of the country for doing all this. Babu Rajani Nath Busu, M.A., B.L., the Secretary of the Association, is receiving subscriptions. Rupees 20,000 have already been collected in Calcutta, and more is expected from that city. Mymensingh will not fail to subscribe as liberally. It is necessary that not less than Rs. 20,000 should be collected in Dacca. Brethren of Dacca and Mymensingh! Do you rise equal to the occasion and prove that you are not unworthy children of Bengal at this time when a great danger threatens her. Thanks to the Maharaja of Mymensingh, he has become the soul of the

agitation in that district. In Calcutta also he has raised a violent agitation as-

President of the Bengal Landholders' Association.

In the meantime, the correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of Bengal, which recently appeared in the official Gazette, has brought despair into the minds of many people. The Dacca People's Association sent the following telegrams to the Governments of India and Bengal in reference to the correspondence:—

# "['To the Government of India.]

"Correspondence between Bengal and India ending with your 8808, dated 23rd instant, has filled Dacca with consternation. People not unreasonably expected enlightened Government Bengal to defer expression of opinion on so grave subject till those concerned had opportunity of placing their views. His Honour's observations regarding sources of people's anxiety do not touch many important aspects of the question. People respectfully implore His Excellency to defer final decision of the question till humble representations of people have been received and considered. Viceroy may accede, being anxious to allow discussions on important questions.

# "[To the Government of Bengal.]

"Your letter 5063J., dated 21st instant, to India, has filled Dacca with surprise. People not unreasonably expected enlightened Government Bengal to defer expression of opinion on so grave subject till those concerned had opportunity of placing their views. His Honour's observations regarding sources of people's anxiety do not touch many important aspects of the question. People respectfully implore His Honour to defer final expression of opinion till people's representations have been received and considered."

There appears to be, however, no ground for despair. On the morning of the 26th instant, some respectable inhabitants of East Bengal had an interview with the Lieutenant-Governor, in which His Honour clearly expressed his desire to know the opinions of educated men on the question. The Honorary Secretary to the Bengal Landholders' Association has sent the following telegram to the President of the Dacca People's Association in regard to the interview:—

"We had private conference to-day at his request. His Honour has open mind Anxious to ascertain intelligent educated public opinion. Desired further conference."

If the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor are really desirous of doing good to the people, they must listen to what the people have got to say in the matter. Neither the Government of India nor the Government of Bengal has fully realised the depth of the anguish which the proposal has caused among the inhabitants of Bengal. Every Bengali heartily desires that the whole Bengali nation should live and prosper under one Government. Why speak of making Dacca the capital of Assam? If Dacca is separated from Bengal and made the capital of all India, its inhabitants will consider the step ruinous to them. Pray do not lure us with temptations. The appellation, "Bengali," is our inheritance from our fathers. We won't forsake it for our lives. If the British Government rejects our just prayer, a blemish will attach to the reputation for impartiality which it possesses.

51. The Dacca Gazette, [Dacca] of the 28th December publishes the following in its English columns in continuation of the article in its previous issue on the same sub-

It is sought to afford relief to the Bengal Administration by severing from it these "outlying" districts and also the greater part, if not the whole, of Chota Nagpur. The severance of Dacca and Mymensingh appears to have been particularly necessitated by the prospective addition to Bengal of the Uriya-speaking districts of Ganjam, Vizigapatam, Sambalpur and others. These are proposed to be added on grounds which, to our lay minds, uninitiated in official logic, would appear, if applied to East Bengal, to be totally destructive of all the arguments advanced by Government in favour of the proposed lopping off. For instance, it is said that Dacca and Mymensingh, if they continue to form a part of Bengal after the incorporation of the Chittagong Division into Assam, will constitute a projection from the main body of Bengal obtruding itself into the heart of Assam, and hence they too must share the same fate in order to satisfy the sesthetic requirement of the Government. Let us apply this argument to the proposed addition of the Uriya-speaking

DACCA GAZETTS, Dec. 28th 1903, districts. If Dacca and Mymensingh obtrude into one province, the Uriyaspeaking districts will obtrude in the most ugly and offensive way into two, and if ever there was an ugly and useless projection hanging loosely and awkwardly from a province, it will be those Uriya-speaking districts which, having been refused shelter by other provinces, have, at last, found a harbour in Bengal. The difference in language and manners between the populations of Bengal proper and Orissa is obvious to everybody, and the most convenient method of giving relief to Bengal would appear to be to detach Orissa from it and add it to the Central Provinces, with the population of which the people of Orissa have much stronger affinity in language and manners. But in the case of Orissa, it is said in favour of its retention that "the prescription of a century it is difficult to break." How pregnant with meaning are these words! Would they not apply with tenfold force to the proposal to sever this part of the province? If, in the case of Orissa, it is the prescription and association of a century, in the case of Dacca and Mymensingh it is the prescription and association of ten centuries, if not more, that will have to be broken. It is said in the letter of the Government of India that Dacca and Mymensingh are not separated from Assam by any "ties either of origin, language, religion or administration." If we did not know that Mr. Risley is the writer of this letter, we would have thought that it was the production of some omniscient Civil Servant who had spent his official life in the wilds of Beluchistan or the deserts of Sind. If this is the nature of the information which Government gleans from census operations, the less we have of these censuses the better. If Government cares in the least to know the ancient history of Dacca, it will know that Dacca was for a long time the capital of Bengal during Muhammadan rule in India, and that even when it had ceased to be the capital, it still continued to be politically one of the most important districts of the province. Turning to more ancient history, to the times of Hindu rule, we find that for a long time it was the chief city in Bengal, and that the most prominent and far-reaching social change of modern times, viz., Kulinism, had its origin and first development at Dacca, and then spread through the length and breadth of the province. Indeed, until quite modern times, when the advent of British rule raised Calcutta from a swamp into the metropolis of India, Dacca was the recognized centre and capital of civilization and learning in Bengal, and its sway over the rest of the province in social and intellectual matters, dating from the dawn of history, was seldom disputed, except for a short time by Nadia, where the rise and growth of Vaishnavism led to the revival of learning and intellectual culture. But the influence of Dacca has seldom waned, and even now it is recognized as the second town in Bengal in learning, culture, and trade.

It will be clear to any student of history and observer of the social links existing between the different parts of the province, that in the social, religious, and intellectual growth of Bengal proper, Dacca has played and is still playing a most important part. To speak of it as a useless appendage to Bengal proper and as having the greatest affinity with Assam, would be to ignore both ancient and modern history, and to show an amazing ignorance in ethnology and language. After diffusing culture and learning through the province of Bengal for so many centuries, to be told that we have the same exalted origin as the Garos, Nagas, Khasias, and Jaintias and other aboriginal tribes, really it is too hard. To be told that our language, so rich in poetical and prose works, to which writers of East Bengal have been prominent contributors, to be told that this language is not different from the barbarous dialects of Assam! If Government wishes to justify the changes, let it use vague and guarded language. By being explicit in its argument, it has made itself

ridiculous in the eyes of the people.

So far as religion is concerned, Government has again fallen into a serious blunder. One of the criteria in India as to affinity in religion between two communities is the existence of connection by marital ties between them. We do not mean to say that it is the only criterion, but it is the most important. Now this connection, or its possibility, is entirely wanting in the case of these two provinces. Social customs, again, play a large part in the religious system of India. There is a wide diversity between the two in this respect also. Government is entirely in error.

So far as administration is concerned, we know large parts of Assam form what are called "non-regulation provinces," and the administration of the whole province necessarily takes its tone largely from the methods of rule prevalent in these non-regulation tracts. Government itself has admitted the predominance of a single trading interest in Assam. The spirits of the two administrations are entirely different. In the face of these facts, it is ridiculous to speak

of an affinity in administration.

In the proposal to relieve the Madras and Central Provinces Administrations of the Uriya-speaking localities now included within their area, the ruling idea appears to be to remove the linguistic difficulties which the Civil Service in those provinces have to encounter owing to their having to deal with a large number of languages. Will not the Bengal Civilians meet with the same difficulty? Is this the way to minimize the existing difficulties of our administration? If it really be the object of Government to secure as much uniformity of language in a province as possible, surely the method proposed is sure to defeat instead of furthering it. The easiest way of affording relief to the Bengal administration would be to detach from it the province of Behar, which has much greater affinity with the United Provinces than with Bengal, and also, if necessary, Orissa, which has strong affinity with a large part of the Central Provinces. In this way uniformity in race, language, manners, and religion would be secured, while at the same time, the population under the Bengal administration being greatly reduced, it would be entirely relieved of those difficulties under which it now labours. It would go a great way towards removing those jealousies and heart-burnings which now exist between the different parts of the Province having conflicting interests, and the Province would become a homogeneous whole, the different units of which, bound to each other by long-cherished traditions, sympathies, and social connections, would continue their career of progress with unabated zeal and ardour.

#### III.—LEGISLATION.

The Official Secrets Act Amendary given by Lord Curzon to the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale's speech on the Official Secrets Act Amendary appears himself surprised at the alarm with which the Bill is

viewed by all thoughtful people, but he has not been yet able to convince them

that the alarm is baseless.

There is no attempt made in the reply to remove the fear, alleged to be groundless, which has taken possession of the public mind, that whatever the object of the Legislature may be the proposed law may be made an engine of oppression. What necessity there is for a new law for keeping official information secret, the Viceroy has not told the public, and the occurrence of a solitary case of an attempt to take a photograph of a fortress does not certainly justify Government in making all matters, military as well as civil, official secrets. It may be objectionable to divulge political secrets and discuss military schemes, but any attempt to treat as confidential information, the publication of which is not likely to prove injurious to any secret policy of Government, is perfectly unnecessary. It is no wonder that the public are alarmed to hear that any attempt to publish the most ordinary information regarding political matters shall be visited with severe punishment.

There was an idea that only the editors of newspapers would come within the scope of the proposed law, but a perusal of the Bill makes it clear that anybody and everybody can be easily brought under its purview. Section III

(1) (a) runs as follows:—

"Where a person without lawful authority or permission (the proof whereof shall be upon him) enters or is in any part of a place belonging to His Majesty, being a fortress, arsenal, factory, dockyard, camp, ship, office or other like place, in which part he is not entitled to be, . . . . he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both."

Is this not a dreadful law? Is it not dreadful that a hawker happening to come within the precincts of a public office for the purpose of selling sweetmeat, or a member of an officer's family who might have come to his office with news of any sudden illness or danger should be liable to be convicted of a

HITAVADI, Dec. 25th, 1903. penal offence? Is it not a matter for fear and anxiety that anybody and everybody should be able to arrest and challan such a man, and that his offence should be non-bailable? Is it reasonable to enact such a rigorous law because somebody was found making a sketch of a fortress? Lord Curzon, in his reply, made no reference to such matters, and that is why his reply has failed to remove the public fear.

It is stated in the course of the Viceroy's speech that the provisions which it is now proposed to incorporate in the existing law are only such as are already in force in the colonies and elsewhere. If this is correct, a comparison with the colonial law would have gone a great way to remove popular mis-

apprehension.

Now, which should be regarded as an offence? Dishonesty of intention or want of permission? Is that law worthy of a civilised administration which can authorise the passing of a sentence of imprisonment on a person, even if his intention be not dishonest? Is not such harassment of innocent people as is proposed in the Bill a matter of gross scandal under the enlightened English rule in this twentieth century of the Christian era? Why should there be any punishment at all if the heart is not guilty and the motive is not dishonest?

Lord Curzon's sweet, reassuring words notwithstanding, one is unable to get rid of the idea that under the proposed law innocent persons will be punished, for the law will remain, though its framers will not, and the Judges will interpret the law as they will find it, without any regard to the intention

of the Legislature in making it.

BARGAVASI, Dec. 26th, 1903.

53. We do not disagree, says the Bangavasi [Calcutta] of the 26th December, with the official members of the Viceregal The Universities Bill. Council who unanimously observed, in the meeting of the Council held on the 18th instant, that no one had been able to impugn Government's motive in framing the Universities Bill. But Government is not likely to gain its object in this measure. For the means it proposes to adopt in order to gain that object are such as will not suit a poor country like India. No one will deny that palatial college buildings, with well-furnished laboratories, good libraries, healthy boarding-houses, and elegant and beautiful professors' quarters attached to them, are certainly good for the health and education of boys, but how many people can pay for such costly education in a country in which distress and famine have made their permanent home and where people seek education for the sake of earning their livelihood? Unfortunately for us, continues the writer, our rulers are unable to realise the full extent of our poverty, and we therefore fear that, in spite of their honourable motives, that which they intend to introduce as a reform will turn out to be the cause of our ruin.

BANGAVADI.

54. The same paper writes as follows:—

In his speech on the Official Secrets Act The Official Secrets [Act Amend-Amendment Bill, the Viceroy has tried to allay the fears of all classes of people-editors, writers, politicians, place-hunters, officers, thikadars, etc., on its score. But how can they be assured of their security against the Bill so long as its wording and scope remain unchanged? Lord Curzon's successors in the Viceroyalty of India may not be as wise and generous as he is, and in their hands and in the hands of legal practitioners the loose and unguarded phraseology of the Bill may be used as a weapon for spreading terror and dismay in the country. Again, so long as the civil administration is included in the Bill, any number of sweet and soothing words will fail to assure the public of its, harmless character. No one objects to the provisions of the Official Secrets Act being made more stringent in matters military and naval. The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale has plainly said that he objects only to the extension of those provisions to civil matters. Lord Curzon has consented to make some changes in the wording of the Bill. But mere changes in the wording of the Bill, unaccompanied by a curtailment of its scope, will be of no use. The Viceroy has not told us why Government is so anxious to extend the provisions of the Official Secrets Act to the civil administration of the country, and his speech has therefore failed to defeat Mr. Gokhale's arguments. We pray to the authorities not to extend the provisions of the Act to the civil administration of the country.

# V .- PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PROPLE.

55. The Medini Bandhav [Midnapore] of the 23rd December says:—

It is officially reported that this year the

MEDINI BANHAY, Dec. 23rd, 1903.

Outturn of the autumnal crop has been from 70 to 89 per cent. in the Bankura, Midnapore, Jessore, Jalpaiguri, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Singhbhum, Birbhum, Nadia, Patna, Sahabad, Saran, Malda, Sonthal Parganas, Hazaribagh, Palamau, and Manbhum districts. But this report notwithstanding, we can confidently state that in the Midnapore district the outturn has been less than even 40 per cent.

### VI.-MISCELLANEOUS.

56. The Tripura Hitaishi [Comilla] of the 22nd December writes as TRIPURA HITAISHI, follows:—

Doc. 22nd, 1903.

True it is that the Musalman religion is antagonistic to the Hindu religion, and that to propagate their faith the Musalmans cruelly persecuted the Hindus. But there is in the Musalman true religious zeal and fervour, and this is what led to the firm establishment of Musalman dominion in India. In spite of immense religious differences, the Musalmans gave the Hindus an equal share in the administration, so that Hindus and Musalmans ruled the country on terms of perfect equality. The Musalman rulers did not look upon the Hindus as step-children, and though oppressive religious measures like the jijia were adopted from time to time, the interests of the two communities were, in the main, identical.

Akbar was the greatest of the Musalman rulers, and his mission in life was to unite Hindus and Musalmans under a common religious faith. Indians are always eager to hear religious discourse, to imbibe religious feelings, and to be dominated by religious ideas, and this is the secret of the universal popularity

of Ramchandra, Asoka, and Akbar in this country.

But under English rule, we find a system the very opposite of the ancient system. The English Government says:—"We are Christians, and, as such, it is our object to propagate Christianity and to proclaim its glory. But we will not, on that account, do anything hostile to any other religion or maintain a State religion by legislative enactment. In our dominion everybody shall

enjoy perfect religious freedom."

The English Government maintains a large number of missionaries, who preach Christianity all over India. These are the only people in India who try to follow the precepts of Christianity. As for the Christian officials, they, from the very highest down to the very lowest, set a very different example. Very few examples of Christian behaviour are to be found among these officers. The truth is, there is nothing in the lives of our Viceroys, Lieutenant-Governors, Magistrates, and Police Superintendents to put us in mind of the precepts of Jesus.

Do these people worship at all? Go to a tea-garden and you will find hundreds of men and women who have wholly given themselves up to merriment, such as playing, dancing, and drinking. You will not hear them so much as taking the name of Jesus. There is nothing in their conduct to make

one think that there is any religion among them.

Go to the house of a Magistrate or of a Police Superintendent and there, too, you will find little sign of devotion of any kind. In the houses of many a planter you will find heaps of treasures, but probably not that supreme treasure, the Bible. In the well-furnished houses of many an Englishman we have found shelf over shelf containing plays and novels, but we have failed to find the Bible in the vast collection. If found, it is found dusty or wormeaten.

It is our belief that if the English officials had led Christian lives and performed their official duties in a truly religious spirit, if they had been anxious to see religion triumph, they would have been able to find their way to the heart of the Indian people. If our Government had been really a Christian Government, the good old days of King Ram would have returned to the Indians.

HOW BAR HITAISHI. Dec. 26th, 1903.

57. The Howrah Hitaishi [Howrah] of the 26th December addresses

Lord Ampthill as follows:— An admonition to Lord Ampthill.

Lord Ampthill, do not look down upon everybody in this wide world simply because you have had the good fortune to be appointed Governor of Madras. The Hindus are a very meek people and we have no wish to enter into a discussion with you as to whether they have any faith in God or not, for religious discussion with a follower of a different faith is forbidden in our religious books. But we must freely say that Hiudus have always worshipped their Sovereign as their god. No other people are so loyal as the Hindus. The same may also be said of the Musalmans. But the Hindus have something which they hold dearer even than their sovereign, and that is their religion. They know that it is better to be slain in consequence of one's adherence to one's own religion, for an alien religion is a thing to be feared. They can obey every command of the sovereign and endure every oppression, but they cannot put up with any insult to their religion. There is nothing which causes such madness in them as their religion, and many instances of this are to be found in the annals of ancient as well as of modern India. When they fear any interference with their religion they forget all considerations of prudence and take little thought of the strength or weakness of the enemy who is opposed to them. Religious zeal gives them more than their usual strength on these occasions, and they have, we find, often succeeded in their struggle. That is why we say, Lord Ampthill, do you take heed. Never seek to interfere with the religion of the Hindus or Musalmans under the pretext of discharging administrative duties. If you do, a revolution will become inevitable in India. Reflect on the termination of Musalman rule and remember the gracious words of assurance of Her late Majesty. She was certainly more intelligent than you are and knew better the Indian heart. We have one thing more to say to you. Never pierce the hearts of Hindus and Musalmans with such cruel words. Pluck out the javelin that you have plunged into their hearts. You are right welcome to occupy yourself with your Jesus. But leave to Hindus and Musalmans their Parabrahma and Illa Sarif. Let peace reign in India for some time longer. May God grant you good sense.

BANGAVABI, Dec. 26th, 1903.

BARGAVASI.

58. The Bangavasi [Calcutta] of the 26th December says that Babu Chandra Nath Basu, M.A., B.L., the very able Retirement of the Bengali Trans-Translator to the Government of Bengal, a man lator to Government. possessed of experience and sound judgment, is going to retire from service on the 1st of January next. Babu Narayan

Chandra Bhattacharyya will succeed him.

59. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Magistrate of Gaya has recently sent two notice-boards to Budh-Gaya. The Budh-Gaya affair. one for the local temple and the other for the local tank. The notice contained in the former forbids people to remove any article whatever from it, and that contined in the latter forbids people to bathe or wash their clothes in it. People disobeying these orders will be liable to criminal prosecution. The entire Hindu community is anxious to know what led the Magistrate to issue such notices.

60. The same paper writes as follows:— BANGAVASI.

We have more than once brought forward The Budh-Gaya question. unmistakable historical evidence that the Budh-Gaya temple was never in Buddhist possession, and that it was constructed and consecrated by a Brahmin, and that ever since its construction it has been maintained and possessed by Brahmins. Only for a short time it was under Buddhist supervision and management, but that cannot make it a Buddhist temple.

More of the history of the temple. In 1685 A.D., Mr. Wilmott got a copper inscription in Budh-Gaya, in which it was written that in the tenth century, when the god Vishnu first appeared at the place, it was full of dense jungle. In 1805, Dr. Buchanan Hamilton said that this copper plate was inscribed and deposited by a Vaishnava. Cunningham says that Brahmins have been enjoying undisturbed possession of the temple and the Bodhi tree ever since the beginning of the 13th century. In 1590, Gossain Govinda Giri, a disciple of Sankaracharyya, went to Budh-Gaya, repaired the temple, and established his own possession and the possession of his descendants. All the sovereigns of India, from Muhammad Shah Padsha Gazi to Queen Victoria, have acknowledged the supreme and uncontested authority of Gosain Govinda Giri's descendants over the temple. In 1872 the King of Burma desired to have the temple repaired at his cost. The Mohant consented to the proposal on the following terms:-

(1) That the work of repair should be done in such parts of the temple and in such manner as will be indicated by the Mohant.

(2) That the King of Burma's men should never offer any such articles for puja purposes under the Bodhi tree as are repugnant to the feelings of the Hindus.

(3) That the fact that the King of Burma is having the temple repaired at his cost should give him no claim of any kind to the temple or any of its parts.

(4) That the holy ground should continue to remain under the management of the officers of the Hindu Mohant.

The work of repairs was begun on these conditions, but seeing that proper attention was not being given to the ancient works of sculpture in the temple, Government took the management of the work into its own hands. The work was begun in 1874 and ended in 1884. In 1881, Sir Ashley Eden, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, went to Budh-Gaya and told the Mohant that Government had not the smallest intention to interfere with his rights and that repairs were being made for the purpose of improving the estate, of which he would continue to be the master as before. Government has always shown such impartiality in Budh-Gaya matters. It is impossible that it will now curtail the rights of the Hindu Mohant at the instigation of a handful of Buddhists.

61. The Nava Yug [Calcutta] of the 26th December writes as follows:—

It was an auspicious moment for Mr. Risley Mr. Risley. when he was appointed Census Commissioner of India; for it was in connection with the discharge of his duties of that office that he became sub janta in this country. Whether anybody else admits this or not, Mr. Risley himself is only too conscious of it. To our mind, however, Mr. Risley appears to have made himself a buffoon or jester under Lord Curzon in the same way as Gopal Bhaur was Raja Krishna Chandra's buffoon or jester. To illustrate our meaning. When taking the census he set the Kaysathas and Vaidyas against each other by raising the question of their relative superiority and inferiority. This, however, did not do much practical harm. His recent statement that the people of Dacca and Mymensingh do not differ in race, religion, and language from the people of Assam is making people laugh at his ignorance. Lord Curzon has probably had opportunities of knowing that Mr. Risley is an omniscient man, or he could not have brought himself to dance to Mr. Risley's tune and put his singer into such a mess. He is himself a shrewd, intelligent, and keen-sighted man. But in this matter he has allowed himself to be led astray by Mr. Risley.

62. Babu Chandra Nath Basu, M.A., B.L., the well-known Bengali author and worthy Translator to the Government of Bengal,

The Bengali Translator's comsays the Prativasi [Calcutta] of the 28th December, ing retirement. will retire from the service of Government from the 1st January next, and his place will be taken by Babu Narayan Chandra Bhattacharyya. Bengali literature owes a heavy debt of gratitude to Chandra Nath Basu, and the writer prays that he may spend the remaining days of his

life in peace and happiness.

# URIYA PAPERS.

The Utkaldipika [Cuttack] of the 19th December says that Babus Janakinath Bose, Ram Sankar Roy, and Harimohan Riection of delegates to the Roy Chowdhuri have been elected delegates from the Utkal Sabha at Cuttack to present themselves Congress at Madras. at the ensuing meeting of the National Congress at Madras.

NAVA YUG, Des. 26th, 1903.

PRATIVASI, Dec. 28th, 1903

UTKALDIPIKA, Dec. 19th, 1908.

ensuing meeting of the National

Madras Government's method of obtaining opinion on the operative Credit Societies' Bill.

64. The same paper praises His Excellency the Governor of Madras for calling a meeting of the members of the Governor's Council, three native officers of Government, some respectable Hindus, and important members of other Societies to give their opinion on the "Cooperative Credit Societies' Bill." The writer observes that this method of discussing a question and obtaining public opinion thereon is superior to taking

the opinion of individual gentlemen separately.

UTKALDIPIKA.

65. The same paper says that all the Uriya-speaking people and the residents of Orissa are very much thankful to His Excellency the Governor-General and Viceroy of Union of Ganjam and Sambalpur

with Orissa. India for his proposal to unite scattered Orissa politically under one Government. It is hoped that His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who has been a friend of the Uriyas by re-introducing the Uriya language in the Courts of the Central Provinces,

will not hesitate to lend his support to the good proposal.

UTRALDIPIIRA.

Government Resolution on the working of the Puri Lodging-house

66. Adverting to the Government Resolution on the working of the Puri Lodging-house Act, the same paper observes that the Government has given a hint for the spending of the surplus balance in Puri in the expensive and large drainage system of the town. Similar

arrangements, if made, for utilizing the surplus balance in Cuttack would be very beneficial.

UTKALDIPIKA.

67. A correspondent of the same paper, signing himself "Sri," writes to say that the proposed Puri pilgrim tax is, for The Puri pilgrim tax.

various reasons, unjust and improper. (1) It is an interference with the performance of religious duties and is opposed to the policy of religious neutrality. The Hindus firmly believe that to see Jagannath is to prepare the way to salvation. To impose a tax on such an act may indirectly diminish the religious tendency of some persons and wound the feelings of the poor. (2) At present the pilgrims have to pay a tax indirectly under the Puri Lodging-house Act. This Act was not in force when the poll tax from the pilgrims was being levied at Atharanulla. Since the introduction of the Lodging-house Act the rate of house rent at Puri has considerably increased. Over and above this, the imposition of a new tax will no doubt be very oppressive. (3) The case of Hardwar does not apply to Puri. The latter is not only a place of pilgrimage, but also the head-quarters of a district. There are Collectorate, Magistracy, Munsifi, and Police offices here; it is also a trade centre and a port, and is resorted to by parties to suits, traders, and friends and relatives of the residents, who of course are not pilgrims and are not liable to pay the tax. How can these people be distinguished from the pilgrims? To make such a distinction will lead to much confusion and fraud. (4) When a Hindu, who is either a party to a suit or a trader, goes to Puri, he sees Jagannath and does other religious duties. Thus both such persons and the pilgrims are equally benefited in religious matters. Under the circumstances, it does not seem equitable that one should be made to pay the tax and the other exempted from it. On the other hand, no tax can be levied from a trader or a defendant or witness in a case, as the latter is obliged to come to the town under the orders of a Court. (5) It is proposed to realise annas two or four from each pilgrim, but in that case the rich and the poor will have to pay equally, and one who resides at Puri for a month will have to pay as much as one who stays there only for a day. (6) It is not clear from the orders of Government for what purpose the tax is being imposed. Probably keeping the town clean, improving its health, and maintaining churitable dispensaries, &c., may be its object. But most of the pilgrims stay at Puri only for three nights, and many others reside there not more than four or five days. They do not even cook their food in the town and live upon mahaprasad (holy food of Jagannath). Under the circumstances, they will not enjoy the benefit of the works mentioned above, though paying for them, while the residents, who will be benefited, will pay nothing. (7) Government may say, why should not the pilgrims pay for works executed for their benefit? But at present the necessities of the town are met tolerably well from the municipal and lodging-house taxes. The pilgrims do not feel much inconvenience nor do they want anything more. What is the necessity, therefore, that Government should open new works and impose new taxes? There may be many works of public utility, but only such works need be executed as are indispensably necessary. There seems to be no such work required at present. If the Government has so much sympathy with the pilgrims. it may spend something for their good from the public revenues. There has been a large surplus in the budget estimate, most part of which consists of the tax paid by the Hindus. (8) A large number of religious mendicants and Baisnabs, etc., have no means to maintain themselves. They live by begging. They come to Puri for the performance of their religious duties. If they be not exempted, their religious performances will be interfered with: and their exemption on the other hand will lead to much confusion and (9) The residents of the places adjoining Puri town are called They come to Puri 10 or 12 times in the year and return home Panchkosis. the very day they come or the day after. Such men, especially the poor among them, will feel very much if they pay the tax 10 or 12 times in a year. Consequently many of them will be prevented from seeing Jagannath. This will be an interference with their religion and will cause pain in their minds. (10) It is rumoured that the Collector of Puri has asked the opinion, on the matter, of the principal residents of Puri. But the question concerns not only the inhabitants of Puri, but also all the Hindus of India, and it is necessary therefore that their opinion should be taken on it. The imposition of a tax will be a cause of discontent and pain to all the Hindu residents of India. For these reasons it is not proper to levy it. The editor of the paper agrees with the correspondent, and hopes that the Government will decide the question after due consideration.

Cuttack Conference.

Cuttack Conference.

Cuttack on the 30th and 31st instant. Some students of the Berhampore College have offered their services as volunteers. The Executive Committee have approved a new turban for the use of the members, and have given orders for 300, which the members may purchase if they like.

GARJATBASINI, Dec. 19th, 1903.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

The Subordinate Judge of Subordinate Judge, who has been sent from Sylhet to hear civil appeals at Cachar, is too old a man to discharge his responsible duties properly. The sooner the goes away on pension, the better for all concerned.

SILCHAR, Dec. 15th, 1908,

# NARAYANCHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Officer in charge of the office of the Bengali Translator to Government.

Bengali Translator's Office, The 2nd January, 1904. is in the receipment by